

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the previously-pending claims with the following claim listing.

1. (Currently amended) A method of detecting a cancer marker, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting an expression profile of at least one gene in a ~~biological sample of a~~ cancer tissue from a human subject, wherein said at least one gene is selected from the group consisting of NEK2, PLK1, ATR, and CHEK1; ~~and comparing said expression profile to a reference expression profile of said at least one gene, wherein said at least one gene is differentially expressed in at least two types of cancer cells as compared to corresponding cancer free cells.~~

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the biological sample is a colon sample, a lung sample, a breast sample, or a prostate sample, and said reference expression profile is an average expression profile of said at least one gene in reference biological samples of cancer-free subjects.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said expression profile and said reference expression profile are determined using RT-PCR, nucleic acid arrays, or immunoassays.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said subject has colon cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, or prostate cancer.

8-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The method of claim 1, the method further comprising the step of comparing said expression profile to a reference expression profile of said at least one gene.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, the method further comprising the step of identifying said at least one gene as overexpressed in the cancer tissue from the human subject.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, the method further comprising the step of predicting whether a particular treatment regime would improve a long-term prognosis in the human subject.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the treatment regime comprises targeting said at least one gene.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said targeting comprises administration of an siRNA or an antibody.